

In re Application of: Gera NEUFELD
Serial No.: 10/539,289
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Examiner: Zachary C. HOWARD
Group Art Unit: 1646
Attorney Docket: 29432

In the Specification:

Please amend the Paragraph beginning at **Page 4, line 32**, as follows:

FIGs. 1a-b illustrate the nucleotide sequence of the cDNAs encoding native (mature) and variant VEGF₁₄₅ proteins. Figure 1a = native VEGF₁₄₅ cDNA (SEQ ID NO:1); Figure ~~2b-1b~~ = variant VEGF₁₄₅ cDNA (SEQ ID NO:2). Nucleotides represent the coding sequence of the mature protein and do not include the nucleotides coding for the first 26 amino acids of the signal peptide. Note that the highlighted GAC, GGC and CTG codons in the cDNA encoding the native VEGF₁₄₅ (Figure 1a) are replaced with the highlighted AGC, ATG and AGA codons in the cDNA encoding the variant VEGF₁₄₅ protein (Figure 1b).

Please amend the Paragraph beginning at **Page 6, line 15**, as follows:

An example of such an agent is the VEGF₁₆₅ variant in which the VEGFR-1 binding domain was mutated (Li, B. et al., 2000. Receptor-selective variants of human vascular endothelial growth factor generation and characterization, J. Biol. Chem. 275: 29823-29828). However, this VEGF₁₆₅ variant exhibits relatively ~~weak-weak~~ binding to the extracellular matrix and is therefore not expected to be retained at the denuded area for prolonged periods, thus severely limiting its effectiveness as an inducer of re-endothelialization.